

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A wiper blade partial pressure setting method for a wiper blade that ~~includes~~ includes a backing, which is received in a blade rubber that wipes a wiping surface, wherein the backing spreads an urging force applied from a wiper arm toward the wiping surface in a longitudinal direction of the blade rubber to unify contact pressures of the blade rubber against the wiping surface, the wiper blade partial pressure setting method comprising:

virtually dividing the backing into a plurality of regions in a longitudinal direction of the backing;

discretizing a wiping area of the wiper blade in the wiping surface in a wiping direction of the wiper blade and in a longitudinal direction of the wiper blade; and

setting at least one of a curvature and a rigidity of each of the plurality of virtually divided regions of the backing in such a manner that a sum of variation differences of the contact pressures at respective discretized points is minimized.

2. (Previously presented) The wiper blade partial pressure setting method according to claim 1, wherein

the sum of the variation differences of the contact pressures is:

a sum of absolute values of differences, each of which is between the contact pressure at a corresponding one of the discretized points and a reference value; or

a sum of squares of the differences, each of which is between the contact pressure at the corresponding one of the discretized points and the reference value.

3. (Previously presented) The wiper blade partial pressure setting method according to claim 1, further comprising weighting according to the variation differences of the contact pressures.

4. (Previously presented) The wiper blade partial pressure setting method according to claim 1, wherein

the sum of the variation differences of the contact pressures is a sum of the variation differences of the contact pressures computed for a round-trip of the wiper blade in the wiping direction.

5. (Previously presented) The wiper blade partial pressure setting method according to claim 1, wherein

the discretizing of the wiping area of the wiper blade includes:

dividing the wiping area into equal intervals in the wiping direction of the wiper blade; and

dividing the wiping area into equal intervals in the longitudinal direction of the wiper blade.

6. (Previously presented) The wiper blade partial pressure setting method according to claim 1, wherein

the virtually dividing of the backing includes dividing the backing into equal intervals in the longitudinal direction of the backing.

7-9. (Canceled)